Measures to deal with water crisis

355. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken various short term and long term measures to deal with the water crisis that has arisen in some States due to drought on account of scanty rainfall;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the water crisis is likely to be solved by the short term measures; and

(d) the names of the States which have been benefited so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Provision of emergency Drinking Water Supply during periods of droughts in urban and rural areas, is funded through the relief funds. Rs. 1227.29 crores have been released as Central Share of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the States for 2002-03. Besides, Railways are transporting water free of cost in Rajasthan. To provide long term relief the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWSP) is in operation since 1985 under which Rs. 38000 crores has been allocated to States resulting in coverage of 12.81 lakhs out of 14.22 lakh identified habitations. For smaller towns Rs. 360 crores have been spent under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Scheme.

All the affected States have benefited from relief funds and the above schemes.

Yield rate per acre

356. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite takir.g all measures the rate of yield per acre in India is very low as compared to that of rest of the countries in the world;

(b) if so, what is the detail of the yield per acre in India in comparison to countries like China, America and Russia;

(c) the reasons for less yield per acre; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to increase the yield per acre in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) It is true that in respect of some crops, the productivity in India is lower as compared to that of some other countries, but the productivity ill India is higher in respect of certain other crops. This will be clear in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The yield per acre in India as compared to China, America and Russia in respect of some important crops are given in the annexure.

(c) The productivity varies a great deal from region to region and country to country because it depends on a number of factors such as condition of soils, facilities of irrigation, duration of the crop (gestation period between sowing and harvesting), quality of seeds, timely application of quality inputs, managerial skills of farmers and availability of credit, etc.

(d) In order to improve production and productivity of agricultural commodities in the country, the Government have launched various initiatives such as promotion *6i* watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, etc. Besides, the Government also encourages farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States so as to give flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements.

Statement

Yield rates of some major crops in selected countries, 1999 and 2000

(kg./hec.)

Country	Rice		Wheat		Total	Pulses	Foodg	rains	Groundnut		Cotton	(Lint)	Sugarcane	
	1999	2000	1999	200O	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
1. World	3885	3895	2758	2698	812	770	2878	2819	1361	1449	554	572	65288	65970
2. China	6334	6234	3947	3729	1472	1477	4831	4792	2959	3329	1028	1080'	74960	70843
3. USA	6575	7037	2873	2820	1981	1879	5674	5810	2989	680	680	707	79662	78570
4. Russia	2736	2503	1569	1804	973	962	1442	1595						
5. India	2966	3008	2583	2777	628	564	1976	2026	833	859	229	229	72122	75024

Source: F.A.O. Production Year Book, 2000.